

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A token dispensing apparatus comprising:

a token dispensing unit including a storage member for storing tokens;

a token selector unit for releasing a token from the storage member based on a user request;

5 a container dispensing unit for dispensing a container to receive the tokens including a container storage unit and a container separating unit for releasing a container from the storage member to a position to receive a released token;

a first sensor unit for sensing the number of tokens released;

a second sensor unit for sensing a container at the position to receive a released
10 token;

a control unit for receiving an output from the first sensor unit and comparing it with a predetermined value representative of a desired capacity of the container to hold tokens and receiving an output from the second sensor unit to determine the existence of a container at the position to receive a released token to enable the token selector unit to release tokens, the
15 control unit stops the dispensing of the tokens when a predetermined value representative of the desired capacity is reached and compares the predetermined value with the total number of tokens requested, when the total number tokens are greater than the predetermined value and the second sensor unit indicates the initial container is removed from the position to received released tokens, the control unit automatically activates the container separating unit to release a
20 second container and the second sensor unit senses the second container, the control unit

activates the token selector unit to continue to release tokens under the monitoring of the control unit.

2. (Original) The token dispensing apparatus of Claim 1 further including operator control unit for inputting an amount of tokens to be dispensed and a displaying unit for displaying the status of tokens in the container.

3. (Original) The token dispensing apparatus of Claim 2 further including a coin receiving unit and a banknote receiving unit for inputting monetary value in return for the amount of tokens to be dispensed.

4. (Original) A token dispensing device comprising:

a container dispensing unit which dispenses a container for receiving tokens to a dispensing section based on a dispensing signal;

a token dispensing unit which dispenses the tokens to the container located at the
5 dispensing section;

an amount detecting unit which detects the amount of stored tokens in the container;

an overflow preventing unit which outputs a removing signal for removing the container which is located at the dispensing section and a stopping signal for the dispensing unit,
10 when the amount detecting unit detects a predetermined amount of tokens in the container;

a container detecting unit which detects the container located at the dispensing section; and

a remaining amount dispensing unit which enables the token dispensing unit and the container dispensing unit based on a no-container signal from the container detecting unit.

5. (Original) The token dispensing device of Claim 4,
further includes a displaying unit for providing indicia,
indicating removal of the container based on the removing signal.

6. (Original) The token dispensing device of Claim 4, where
the amount detecting unit is a counter which counts tokens dispensed from the
token dispensing unit.

7. (Previously Presented) A token dispensing apparatus comprising:
a token dispensing unit for releasing tokens including a storage member for
storing tokens;

operator control panel for a user to designate a number of tokens to be released as a
5 dispensing signal;

a dispensing section having a container sensor unit;

a container dispensing unit for dispensing a container to receive the tokens including
a container storage unit for supporting a stack of containers and a container separating unit for
releasing an individual container from the container storage unit to the dispensing section to receive
10 a released token;

an amount detecting unit for sensing the amount of tokens released to the container
at the dispensing section;

an overflow preventing unit including a display visible to a user to output a
removing signal for removing the container which is located at the dispensing section and a
15 stopping signal for the token dispensing unit, when the amount detecting unit detects a
predetermined amount of tokens in the container; and

a control unit for receiving an output from the amount detecting unit and comparing it with the predetermined amount representative of a capacity of the container to hold tokens and receiving an output from the container sensor unit to determine the existence of a container at the

20 dispensing section to receive a released token to enable the token dispensing unit to release tokens, the control unit stops the dispensing of the tokens when a predetermined value representative of the container capacity is reached, drives the display to output the removal signal to the user, and compares the predetermined value with the total number of tokens requested, when the total number of tokens are greater than the predetermined value and the container sensor unit indicates the initial

25 container is removed from the dispensing section, the control unit automatically activates the container separating unit to release a second container and when the container sensor unit senses the second container, the control unit activates the token dispensing unit to continue to release tokens under the monitoring of the control unit until the designated number of tokens are released to the user.

8. (Previously Presented) The token dispensing apparatus of Claim 7 further including a coin receiving unit and a banknote receiving unit for inputting monetary value in return for the amount of tokens to be dispensed.

9. (Previously Presented) A token dispensing apparatus of Claim 7 further including a means for monitoring a predetermined time period in which a container is at the dispensing section after a removing container signal is displayed and displays an error signal when the predetermined time period is exceeded.

10. (New) A token dispensing apparatus of Claim 9 wherein the container dispensing unit has the container storage unit for supporting a stack of containers positioned above the dispensing section, the containers are released to drop downward by gravity onto the dispensing section.

11. (New) A method of dispensing tokens to a user from a token dispensing apparatus having a container dispensing unit for providing a container at a dispensing section to receive the dispensed tokens, comprising the steps of:

entering a designated number of tokens to be released;

5 positioning a first container having a capacity to store a predetermined number of tokens at the dispensing section by dropping the first container from the container dispensing unit to the dispensing section;

comparing the entered designated number of tokens with the predetermined storage capacity number of the first container at the dispensing section, and when the entered
10 designated number of tokens is greater than the predetermined storage capacity only releasing the predetermined storage capacity number of tokens;

displaying indicia to remove the first container with the dispensed tokens;

displaying an error signal after a predetermined time period if the first container, with the dispensed tokens is not removed;

15 sensing when the first container is removed from the dispensing section and releasing a second container to drop from the container dispensing unit to the displaying section; and

determining if the remaining number of tokens that are to be dispensed are equal the entered designated number of tokens and releasing the lesser of the remaining number of
20 tokens and the predetermined capacity number of tokens to the second container.